O-Russia Kitty Under O-Gyt.

Dear Jim, 5/11/75

Superficially the Dan Schorr p. 2 byliner, WxPost 5/11/75, "Oswald and the KGB," is excellent for MC critics. The content is has is. My concern is not with this but with the omissions, some known to CBS, all available to Schorr; and quite significant if the omissions are in the documents themselves or in what there should have been, comment on this file.

I think we should have copies of the entire declassified file immediately and that Hoch at least would want them. To this end, because I may want to reproduce in Agent Oswald, please ask for a set from the Archives, charge to my account for pickup when I/we are there for pictures, and ask when and when these papers were declassified and why they were not declassified sooner.

For one who knows the available background information the summary reflected in the head is the wrong angle. It should be Oswald and the CIA. There never was any reasonable basis for believing that Oswald was or could have been KGB.

But the omission from this story of the two transcripts and their nature and content, both in CBS possession through me, does raise reasonable questions. Schorr may or may not have know of either or both but the most casual cehck in CBS' own files had to disclose both. I think it unlikely he is not aware of the reporting of WW IV. This is not to suggest what need be a sinister interpretation because there are always considerations of space. However, in this case I think at least minimal reference, particularly in the context of the current situation re CIA and investigations, made some reference mandatory by normal journalistic standards.

The essence of this story is not new. It is in Nosenko's book, which I have and I am sure about which I have written and spoken to you.

The more significant voids have to do with Oswald's illegal departure(s) from Minsk when he was under surveillance and the whole story of his leaving Russia, especially permission for Marina to go with him. While the latter can be interpreted two ways, I believe it reflects the great Russian anxiety to be rid of him. That there could be no reference to these matters in the KGB file is incredible. That including it in what was given to the US by the Russians would seem to serve obvious Russian interests. Yet I recall none of this in the original files I examined long ago. There is a separate file breakdown. They have this odd way of separating the Oswald history, pre-Russia, Russia and Post Russia.

It is my recollection that what the Russians delivered was goven to the CIA for analysis.

It simply is not possible that the KGB had no Oswald records or interests from the time he went to Minsk until his September application for re-entry. Especially not when the KGB considered him a possible "intelligence agent temporarily fermant." Here a rereading of part of O in NO might be helpful.

Nor is the interpretation given to the words "influence Oswald in the right direction," attributed to the KGB, Minsk, only that of an inference to recruit him. This, in fact, seems to be an entirely unreasonable explanation. It does serve US spook interest and provides a seeming reasonableness to the thrust of the pressur representations of the FBI about the interviews, particularly by Fain. Why would they expect Oswald to return to the US, the only way he could serve KGB interests? How else could be be "recrutied?" and for what?

This leads to an addition to the requests: is anything else on this still withheld (God if I could only get some help to take the elementary needs off me so I could return to that book. This can get out of hand, my fear about so much that is current.)

Unless there is something special about this declassification not indicated in Schorr's story, as would be normal, like a CBS/Schorr/other special request, that this is, as it appears to be, a suddden, out of the regular declassification seems to me to corroborate the suspicion I have long held, that the administration has decided that the official account is going to come apart and it wants to control how it does.

Focusing consideration of evidence of a conspiracy on this alone, which is what Schorr's story does, is consistent with my concern as with current off: